

Fulani herdsmen kill six, wound 14 in Taraba

SIX more people lay dead yesterday in three Tiv and Jukun villages in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State following an attack that bore semblance with previous ones by Fulani herdsmen.

Fourteen others were wounded.

Attacked were Gassol, Takum and Donga all of which are largely populated by Tiv as well as Tundun-Wada, a Jukun settlement, which was reduced to ashes.

A member of the State

From Fanen Ihyongo,
Jalingo

House of Assembly representing Wukari II constituency, Daniel Ishaya Gani, said the victims are Tiv and Jukun farmers.

He described the violence as 'very unfortunate'.

Gani who spoke to *The Nation* yesterday put the casualty figures at six.

However, police spokesman Joseph Kwaji, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) said there were no such attacks and killings in Wukari.

"It is not true. The DIG of police was in Taraba the previous day and we visited Wukari yesterday (Friday); we saw what is happening there. We addressed the issue and we believe it would die naturally," he said.

Kwaji added that the Fulani, Tiv and Jukun have signed a peace deal to co-habit in harmony with other ethnic groups.

Former senator representing Taraba South, Joel Danlami Ikenya, said Tundun-Wada Village was completely burnt

down and some people killed by the Fulani herdsmen.

He told *The Nation* that the attacked village (Tundun-Wada) is a neighbouring settlement to his village -Jibu.

"The village, close to mine, was completely burnt down yesterday (Friday) and some people lost their lives, although I don't know the exact figure of casualties," he said.

Gani blamed the Fulani violence on "laxity" of the state government, which allegedly paved the way for the Fulani herdsmen to acquire and bring

into the area 'huge' arms and ammunitions.

He said following persistent complaints from the people, the acting governor of the state, Alhaji Garba Umar, asked the Speaker, Mr. Josiah Sabo Kente, who is representing Wukari I, to ascertain the cause of the violence with a view to addressing it but nothing concrete has been done.

"It is unfortunate that Taraba South has inherited what was started in Benue and Nassarawa States," he said.

"As I speak to you, a lot of

Tiv and Jukun Villages have been razed by Fulani herdsmen. Six corpses were brought and people from the villages - not only Tiv and Jukun, were being repatriated into the township.

"If nothing is urgently done to quell this violence, all residents of Taraba South would be sacked from their homes. And as it is, it is not only the Tiv, but every person in the village is now being attacked by Fulani herdsmen and their property looted or destroyed."

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